



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON MAN SENTENCED FOR PROVIDING FALSE STATEMENTS IN THE “ASPEN FIRE” INVESTIGATION

TUCSON, Ariz. – The U.S. Attorney for the District of Ariz., announced today that Kenzo Butler, DOB 4/30/81, of Tucson, Ariz., was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge David Bury to two years probation with a condition of 200 hours of Court imposed community service after Butler pled guilty to two counts of providing false statements to U.S. Forest Service investigators.

Count one charged that on July 30, 2003, Kenzo Butler provided a false statement to U.S. Forest Service investigators who were investigating the origin of the “Aspen Fire.” During questioning Butler stated that he did not smoke while hiking on the Aspen trail on Mt. Lemmon on June 17, 2003, when, in fact, he did. Count two charged that on July 31, 2003, Kenzo Butler provided a false statement to U.S. Forest Services investigators, when during questioning, Butler was asked if his friend, with whom he was hiking on June 17, 2003, on the Aspen Trail, had smoked any cigarettes on the Mt. Lemmon trail or stopped for smoke breaks. At the time of questioning, Butler replied “no” when, in fact, his friend did smoke a cigarette while hiking on the Aspen Trail on June 17, 2003.

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The factual basis of the plea agreement stated that Kenzo Butler and his friend were smoking on the Aspen Trail on Mt. Lemmon on June 17, 2003, in the exact location at which fire investigators determined was the origin of the fire.

The investigation that led to the charges of providing a false statement was conducted by Special Agents of the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pima County Sheriff's Office.

The "Aspen Fire" burned over 80,000 acres of timberland and destroyed approximately 335 homes. The investigation is still ongoing.

The prosecution was handled by James T. Lacey, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR 03-2243 TUC DCB

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